



THE SPIRE

Summer / Autumn 2024

St. Stephens and West
PARISH CHURCH
Broughty Ferry

Prayer of Approach

"Dwell upon the Ordinances of the Lord thy God, ruminate on the mystery of his dealings with us, for of such shall He establish our hearts in wisdom."

Let us pray:

For the light of morning, arriving with possibility, for the swirl of the wind, running around, for the colours of the day, scattered by sunrise: to Thee our Creator, our Imaginator, our Restoring God, we offer thanks and praise.

Before Thee we set our bruises and our pains, our hurts and our wrongs and seek in Thy ever-present presence, the grace that redeems. Speak peace to us, calm our troubled spirits and strengthen us to cope with all the highs and lows of the human predicament.

KFH



Soup and a Sandwich

Sunday 10th November. Service at 10.50 a.m. being served in the hall after the service and proceeds going to Poppy Scotland.



10th November

Christmas FAYRE

Saturday 30th November for the Christmas Fayre.

Details will be posted nearer the time

Welcome

St. Stephen's & West Kirk Magazine

Summer / Autumn 2024

to the summer issue of

THE SPIRE

Welcome to the summer issue of The Spire and where has the summer gone! Not the best of summers weather wise.

Apologies for the late issue of the magazine but I held back to allow up to date information regards the Broughty Ferry churches and the position regarding the nominations for the vacant charge. The article in the magazine details the sole nominee process and also clarifies the position of St. Stephens and West.

One of our members Sheila McLuckie is the driving force behind our connections in Meru and presently visiting the area. She has been providing me with photographs and information which I have included in the magazine as a 5 page spread. I have called her my overseas correspondent so the information is hot off the press. By the time the magazine is printed Sheila and her friend Marjorie will have returned from Kenya and I hope you enjoy reading a snippet of the information provided by Sheila. What a trip.

*George Anderson,
Editor*



WRBF update

WRBF is a group of volunteers working to help refugees displaced by war or the threat of war. We started in 2016 in response to the wave of refugees arriving in Europe as a result of war in the Middle East, and since then have helped refugees from Ukraine as well as supporting asylum seekers. We operate as an enabler, linking volunteers with opportunities to support refugees at home and overseas, whether in conversation classes, in sports or social events, and in providing clothing and other items. WRBF grew out of and is supported by the Ecumenical 'Broughty Ferry Churches Group'

Over the summer our group have continued with one to one mentoring and helping with English conversation classes. It is all the more important for us to show our welcome and support for New Scots in light of the recent unrest.

We continue to support TASH at Errol where they continue to send truck loads of donations out to Ukraine and any contributions of donations can still be handed in to Volvo Dundee, Dryburgh Ind. Est. DD5 3XH. They take many donated items but will be looking for especially warm clothes, shoes, and bedding as winter approaches.

We are looking for new volunteers for interesting and rewarding work!

Jill Oakley. WRBF. Tel 01382 736278 for any more information.

Parish Register: St. Stephen's & West

MARRIAGE

"To have and to hold."

May 18, 2024:

Chantel McCafferty, 265 Arbroath Road to Macaulay Whitton, 34 Gaudry Terrace, Broughty Ferry.

July 20, 2024:

Madison Garland to James Colhoun, 116 William Fitzgerald Way, Dundee.

A very warm welcome to two new members who joined on the 27th December 2023:

Madison Garland; and James Colhoun, 116 William Fitzgerald Way Dundee DD4 9FB.

Editors apologies to both for not including this in the Spring magazine. Also our congratulations regards your recent marriage.



IN MEMORIAM

*"Awhile our moral blindness may miss God's loving kindness,
And grope in faithless strife.
But when life's day is over,
Shall death's fair night discover
Fields of everlasting life."*

April 3, 2024 Alexander Ross, 9 Foundry Place, Monifieth.

June 10, 2024 Margaret Sheritt, 27 St. Vincent Court, Broughty Ferry.

BROUGHTY FERRY CHURCHES GROUP Update

Broughty Ferry Churches Group has been rather quiet over the summer, not unexpectedly. However, a Songs of Praise took place on Sunday 30th June in St Luke's & Queens Street at the START of Gala Week - traditionally held at the end to bring Gala Week to a close. There was a large turnout from all churches and many favourite hymns were sung with great gusto!

MERU SPECIAL

On Monday 19th August Sheila McLuckie and her friend Marjorie Kerr, both retired teachers from Grove Academy flew to Nairobi and were greeted by Silas, Jesse and Francis. This was both an information and working trip to see first hand the work being carried out at Ciford, St. Stephens, Limbene and Meru.

So much information plus photographs have been supplied regards the trip and this is a very condensed version. Sheila and Marjorie returned from the trip on the 29th August.



'On behalf of the Kirk session and congregation of St Stephens and West church in Broughty ferry Dundee , Scotland I send greetings to our friends in St Stephens church in Meru.

The friendship and partnership forged between our two congregations has flourished since 2008 over the 11000 km which separates us.

Together we have built and equipped a kindergarten under the watchful eye of the Rev Elijah . We remember fondly his visit with his wife Priscilla to our church and their happy stay with members of our congregation.

Over the last 16 years we have endured the experiences of covid, the climate crisis and the cost of living crisis. Our faith

has supported us through these challenges - but regrettably the kindergarten has not survived these trials. We hope with God's help we can find a way forward. Meantime we are grateful to the Rev Elijah for ensuring that at least ten of the kindergarten children continue in education.

The Meru plate continues to be supported by our congregation on Sundays when we gather after the service in the church hall for refreshments. There is regular news of your church in our church magazine which is distributed to all the congregation. The editor ,George, has asked Sheila to send live coverage of her visit while she is in Meru , which will be edited and published in the next edition of the magazine.

I wish you God's blessings as you continue to do his good work which is entrusted to your care and look forward to news of you when Sheila and Marjorie return home'.

Ever sincerely yours,
Rev Keith Hall

Minister of St Stephens and West

It is 6 years since Sheila's last visit and a number of bags laden with gifts for the Kenyan children were taken with gifts of pants, stationery of every description, footballs, tops, socks, caps, books, sweets, learning materials, beads and jewellery making materials - the list is endless and these items filled two huge travel bags and most of their suitcases!

After an overnight stay in a guest house in Nairobi a 9 hour road trip followed to Ciford, Lailuba. Accommodation here was very different to the guest house and very spartan. Beans, rice and cabbage for supper which was very tasty and freshly cooked.

The next day was working with 73 11-14 year old girls and talking about self esteem and saying no to FGM. The afternoon was filled with 33 teenage Mums making bracelets and necklaces from the beads and kits supplied by Sheila Allan. These can be sold to give them funds for skills training and to be self supporting.



A deal was struck that they could make something for themselves and the rest would be brought back to Scotland and sold with the funds being used to buy equipment to advance their training in beauty therapy, hairdressing and using sewing machines.



The work being carried out at Ciford is very impressive but it's a real uphill struggle to change local attitudes. The largely young team work with women, men, boys as well as girls to change attitudes which make life hard for girls. Education at secondary has to be paid for here. Young mothers drop out of school.

They were very surprised to hear about the supportive mother and baby units in Dundee which allowed teenage mums to attend school.

FGM is still being practised and a presentation was given by a retired nurse and midwife regards the consequences of FGM. In spite of it being illegal 15 to 20% of girls between the ages of 15 to 18 are affected by this procedure. FGM is more prevalent in rural areas than urban. Meru is very rural. The FGM graduation ceremony was in a hilly rural area where the chief holds sway as he addressed the girls and parents in no uncertain terms against FGM.



The African culinary experience included fried cassava with soft fresh pumpkin then orange segments and biscuits. Also cooked mashed potatoes with greens and bananas, ugali, spinach with onions, a sauce of tomatoes and herbs for chopped up lean chicken.

An early morning trip to Mercy's new school and to meet her class being taught by a science teacher. No UK teacher would believe how well behaved the children were and the conditions they worked in.

A visit to the school coincided with its graduation ceremony. The visit was a very heartwarming day and in discussion with the team the girls were an absolute delight and thanked Sheila and Marjorie for their help to motivate the girls.

A safari and cultural day started at 6 a.m. and ended at 11p.m. after dinner. Giraffes, elephants, warthog, mongeese, ostrich, zebra and others were spotted while travelling and 10 year old Calvin was a great spotter for the group. En route home to Ciford a stop was arranged at a traditional samburu nomadic tribe village which was harrowing. Women and children were very thin in very poor conditions.

Meru was the next stop which was a bustling metropolis with motor bikes being a major problem. Elijah was knocked over earlier this year which resulted in two skull fractures and as a result has impaired his hearing.



On the Sunday they took part in a three and a half hour service in Kimeru and presented the scroll and quach as part of the service. Supplies were left for the Sunday School. Discussions were held regarding the kindergarten and Sheila requested a detailed plan for the way forward.

On the Monday, after the kindergarten closed, they met Rev. Elijah and Priscilla who introduced them to the 12 orphans and their carers that have received support from Scotland.

Stationery was handed over to the grandparents and aunts looking after the children and education was stressed as a way out of poverty.



This is the fourth visit to Limbene primary school since 2008. The school has over 500 pupils with a nursery, primary and junior departments for children up to 14 years of age.



Improvements have been made to the school over the last two years making very good use of the additional funding that has been sent. The school is the best in the sub county of Meru and the 5th position in the whole of the county. They have made excellent progress with results.



Titus, a former pupil of the school now works voluntarily as a graduate teacher until he finishes his teaching qualification in January. Discussions with staff were held and included what difference the additional funding had made. A rethink was required for the computing classrooms.

The trip is coming to a close and has been another life changing experience and the need to value the friendships created in Meru .



What are you looking for?

Psalm 139

St. John's Gospel 1:35-42

Picture two individuals loitering uncertainly within the shadow of the Master; aware of their lingering presence, Jesus asks of them:

**What do you want?
Have you lost something?
What are you looking for?**

That still, is the urgent question for our bewildered generation.

We live, do we not, in an age of revolution: social, moral, technological, intellectual.

All those political demonstrations and hot-headed protests we read about or watch on our television screens, marches and counter-marches, often erupting into violence, are they not symptomatic of the turbulence of the times?

What are you looking for?
What is your aim, your objective?

Allow me to suggest: Reality!
I make no apology for the fact that we ought to have no use whatsoever for anything that is not real. Haven't we had enough of shams and conventions, shibboleths and sentimentalisms?
At all cost, let us have Reality.
And Reality in the Kirk!

When we divorce piety from practice, the secular from the sacred, when we sing songs alluding to the sweetness of the divine but fail to put providence into practice, isn't that insidiously trifling, a hiatus that mocks faith?
In one of the ancient Collects of the Church, we pray:

Eternal God, whose might is measured only by thy mercy in JC our Lord, enable us to come before thee without pretence in a true spirit of gratitude and hope. Without pretence!
Don't you want to be captured by a cause, enveloped by something dynamic?
Don't you want to be delivered from tameness, to live on a dangerous edge?
Who wants dead certainty?
A dead certainty is just that, it's dead!

The Scriptures invite reality; from Abraham with all the freshness of the morning in his eyes, setting out on his monumental pilgrimage, from twelve ordinary people in an Upper Room proposing to turn the world upside down, from Albert Schweitzer in his African forest, from a group of cosmonauts navigating space and celebrating Holy Communion on the Moon, passion for reality has haunted the human heart.
Let's think about it another way.

An Artist seeks beauty, only he or she would say, beauty pursues them.
He or she doesn't uncover beauty or concoct beauty, beauty captures them.
So too with a Scientist.
A Scientist seeks truth but he or she wouldn't express it like that, they would say truth pines for them. It is alive and independent of them. Truth apprehends us.

And reality in religion is not a matter of our petty devising.
It is not something we are clever enough to initiate.
It is Someone tracking us down.

What are you looking for?

To see the World in a Grain of Sand
Heaven in a Wild Flower
Infinity in the palm of your hand.

KFH

Broughty Church update

In the last magazine reference was made to the formation of a nomination committee to take forward the advertising, interviewing and appointment of minister/s to fill the vacancy at the newly created Broughty Ferry Parish Church.

The committee numbers 13 representatives in total from the various churches with two from St. Stephens and West. Toni McNicoll and Simon Davidson were duly elected to be our representatives and we thank them for giving of their time to represent us during the deliberations and appointments.

It has been confirmed that the Rev. Lorna Tunstall will preach as Sole Nominee for one of the posts available. She will preach at the St. Stephen's and West 10 a.m. service on Sunday 8th. September and after worship this will be followed by a congregational meeting. At this meeting a vote For or Against Lorna becoming the minister for Broughty Ferry Parish Church will be taken.

It is important to clarify that at present there is no vacancy at St. Stephens and West and this requirement

to vote for a sole nominee is necessary because of the deferred union which presently exists. As explained in previous magazines, our Minister Keith Hall is permitted to practice until his 75th birthday which is still a number of years away and we look forward to continuing as we are until then.

The vote at the end of the service on the 8th. will be by secret ballot. Lorna will also be preaching later that morning in Queen Street East (formerly the New Kirk) and a secret ballot will also be carried out. Once all the voting has been concluded the ballot papers from both churches will be mixed together and before a joint Kirk Session meeting the papers will be counted. The result of the vote will be announced once all the votes have been counted.

The work of the Nomination Committee is not completed yet as two ministers in total have to be appointed. Those on the committee have to serve until both posts are filled.



ST. STEPHENS & WEST PARISH CHURCH

BROUGHTY FERRY

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Door Duty

(One duty elder with transport should offer to distribute flowers.
 Please arrange a substitute if any date is unsuitable for you.)

2024 St Stephen's & West Parish Church

Elders Duty List

Date	Time	Door Duty	Door Duty	Beadle
Sun 1 Sep	10:00	Margaret Knight	Shirley Grinyer	Kenny Matheson
Sun 8 Sep	10:00	May Masson	Sybil Rough	Fiona Watt
Sun 15 Sep	10:00	Syd Smith	Alan Justice	Shirley Thomson
Sun 22 Sep	10:00	Margaret Knight	Ron McPherson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 29 Sep	10:00	May Masson	Heather Stiven	Peter Wakefield
Sun 6 Oct	10:00	Rhona Anderson	Simon Davidson	Fiona Watt
Sun 13 Oct	10:00	Shirley Thomson	Shirley Grinyer	Syd Smith
Sun 20 Oct	10:00	Linda Parry-Richards	Sandra McMillan	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 27 Oct Communion/BST ends	10:00	George Anderson	Heather Stiven	Alan Justice
Sun 3 Nov	10:00	May Masson	Rhona Anderson	Kenny Matheson
Sun 10 Nov Remembrance	10:50	Peter Wakefield	Sybil Rough	Shirley Thomson
Sun 17 Nov	10:00	Shirley Grinyer	Toni McNicoll	Ron McPherson
Sun 24 Nov	10:00	Fiona Watt	George Anderson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 1 Dec	10:00	Margaret Knight	Kenny Matheson	Sandra McMillan
Sun 8 Dec	10:00	May Masson	Heather Stiven	Peter Wakefield
Sun 15 Dec	10:00	Rhona Anderson	Simon Davidson	Shirley Thomson
Sun 22 Dec Christmas Service	10:00	Ron McPherson	George Anderson	Linda Parry-Richards
Sun 29 Dec	10:00	Sybil Rough	Sandra McMillan	Syd Smith